

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 130 that will allow patients to opt out of the All-Payer Claims Database; and adopt a system that has had success in Rhode Island.

When considering this legislation, please take it personally: Would you want your medical information, history or that of your family members to be so readily and widely available for potential breaches, or would you want to have the choice to protect your privacy?

Rhode Island has successfully balanced patients' need for privacy with insurance claim concerns. It does not require identification via names or addresses,

while CT claims data is fully identified with Social Security numbers:

Because

of

the inclusion of so much medical information, the claims data should not be identified at all when leaving the insurers.

Why put the public at risk? It is not necessary for medical care or medical payment. Nor is it necessary for research, as this can be carried on successfully without patient identification.

As it

it cannot be guaranteed that researchers, Access Health and various state agencies will not be able to re-identify our medical information and keep it from being breached, patients need to be the ones to decide if the APCD's uses of their claims data warrants their participation.

Respectfully,

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